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Senate

The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the Honorable MICHAEL B. ENZI, a Senator from the State of Wyoming.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, our rock, our health, and our life, we thank You that You have been to us a high tower and a strong defense. Thank You for helping us to conquer our anxieties and fears, our sins and follies, our failures and doubts. Lord, we put our trust in You, for our times are in Your hands.

Today, give our Senators the light of Your truth. May they find in You the source of highest joy. Take each of us beyond secondhand faith into an experiential relationship with You. Stir us to new heights of excellence, as You show us Your majesty and glory. Let Your strong right arm defend us. We pray this in Your wonderful name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MICHAEL B. ENZI led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, January 27, 2004.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable Michael B. Enzi, a Senator from the State of Wyoming, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. ENZI thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today the Senate will again resume debate on H.R. 3108, the pension rate bill. It is our hope to complete the bill either today or early tomorrow. In accordance with the consent agreement entered yesterday, we will vote at 2:30 p.m. today in relation to the Kyl amendment, No. 2234, which is the PBGC hold harmless language. Senator KYL has an additional amendment pending, and I will be talking to the Democratic leadership as to a time certain for a vote in relation to that amendment. There are a number of meetings this afternoon with Members on both sides. So we will be looking for an appropriate time today for that vote.

In addition, one other Senator has expressed an interest in offering an amendment, and we will be trying to schedule that amendment for consideration as well. Having said that, additional votes will, therefore, occur this afternoon as we attempt to finish the pension rate bill today or tomorrow.

I thank Members for their cooperation in letting us move forward on this legislation.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I appreciate the announcements of the majority leader and will work with him to see if we can't finish the pension bill, if not today, certainly by tomorrow. I think we have had a good debate. There are a lot of good issues that have been addressed. It is an important bill. Even though it is a temporary measure, I think it goes a long way to addressing some of the concerns.

WHITE HOUSE LEAKS AND NATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I wish to address an issue that I think deserves even greater attention in the Senate. It has been 6 months now since a senior White House official publicly disclosed one of this Nation's most protected and valuable national security secrets: the identity of an intelligence operative. This act of political retribution not only placed at risk the life of an intelligence operative, it put at risk the security of every American.

In the war on terrorism, the importance of intelligence agents to our national security simply cannot be overstated. Human intelligence is our best weapon against terrorists. By revealing the name of this operative, the senior White House official or officials responsible acted in an unprecedented manner to break a fundamental bond of trust that protects both the mission and the lives of intelligence officers.

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld summarized the stakes involved when he said:

Leaks put people's lives at risk. And I think that the people in any branch of Government have the obligation to manage their mouths in a way that does not put people's lives at risk. Folks that leak and put people's lives at risk ought to be in jail.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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